

Prison News Service

Number 18 March-April, 1989

Pushing the Police State

The power elite that constitutes the North American ruling class is on the march toward making the national security state — a police state — in reality. That statement may sound like apocalyptic rhetoric, but a perusal of the hysterical and unduly conclusory stories in the mainstream press and closer scrutiny of the deceptively under reported official actions already being taken indicate its veracity. The major media opinion creation apparatus is constructing an atmosphere of fear and imminent danger. It is apparently intended to engender the political support for draconian measures that will give the police and military establishments an iron grip on the society at the expense of civil liberties and human rights. That will allow their ruling class owners to secure their domination of a social system increasingly characterized by concentration of wealth and power in the hands of an elite few and impoverishment and disenfranchisement for the many. Repressive operations by officialdom test the efficacy of this generation of anti-democratic attitudes, the tolerance for withdrawal of freedoms presently extant, at least on paper. The alternative press affords a more detailed view of these ignored and superficially reported authoritarian excesses, but that only makes the rightward roll more apparent.

The alleged war on drugs has been ratcheted up to the level of a national security threat. We are constantly deluged with horrific tales of gang wars and murders, the real and imagined deprivations of shadow drug lords and the wages of any and all drug use being senselessly violent crime. Drugs are convenient because they justify intrusion by the apparatus of oppression anywhere,

into the quarter where resistance to the status quo might be found. But the focus is on poor and third world communities whose condition brings them closest to radicalization and resistance and most easily made into scapegoats. They, however, are not the source of the problem, as the official vision suggests. They control no borders, territory, transportation systems and cannot afford the level of use that creates the profits at the root of the problem. Indeed, if a substantial portion of the reputed \$150 billion annual drug trade actually went into these communities, the poverty from which these conditions grow would not exist.

Refusal to consider — and budget — real solutions such as education, treatment, building economic sufficiency and elimination of the problem via selective legalization while insisting on failed policies of repression as the answer indicate the ulterior motives. Growing numbers of increasingly militarized police (and policed military) and ever more prisons have not solved and cannot solve the drug and crime problems. But they can occupy the community and keep it divided and dependent toward preventing the emergence of any organized resistance to the status quo. All of the other measures would have the opposite effect.

Toward legitimizing the occupation, we see propaganda glorifying the police as selfless defenders of goodness and justice, protecting the victimized from legions of ravening fiends against steep odds. The “fiends” and even the entire communities they inhabit are vilified and set up as deserving police abuse. The impression is created

that the police attack only the guilty and "must" treat them in an exceedingly violent and brutal manner. This is the notion conveyed by the plethora of "real" tough cop and crime shows currently proliferating as well by sensational news reports and pontifications of hardliners. The national guard is also being resurrected from its Kent State and contra-supporters lows to the level of valiant aider of beleaguered police in fighting filthy criminals. Even the military is being rehabilitated with more and more stories about the honor and heroism of its participants in the crime spree of U.S. involvement in Viet Nam. It is a neat dodge: lionize the perpetrators without directly sanitizing the war. The military will need the legitimacy in order to invade somewhere that might take more than a minute, like Nicaragua — or Detroit.

To this propaganda offensive are added actions. In Los Angeles, there are battalion sized police sweeps straight out of counterinsurgency manuals. USA Today reported during the week of 17/Apr that a law is being used allowing the criminalization of "gang" membership. People can also be stopped on the basis of looking like "gang" members. In Chicago, the "strategic hamlet" is being adapted to an urban environment with massive police searches of housing projects on pretexts that require no warrants with controlled movements, security guards and equipment, identification requirements to get into one's own public housing unit.

In Washington, DC, a curfew has been decreed aimed at people under 18 but which will allow the harassment of anyone. Military helicopters fly in support of the police. Strike forces and tactical squads and intelligence units and special weapons teams, etc. ad nauseum mushroom at an alarming rate. Prisons are continually being built and made more repressive, budgetary constraints notwithstanding. Snitch networks are being rapidly constructed. Not long ago, neighbors and families informing on each other was hawked as

the difference between here and the "unfree" outposts of the evil empire. Now, children ratting on their parents for smoking a joint is lauded as the epitome of morality. People are encouraged to notify police of "suspicious" activity by their neighbors.

A good example that the media campaign and actions predicated upon it include substantial disinformation is the denigration and banning of military look-alike rifles. Supposedly responsible media frequently reported them as machine guns, when they are not; created the impression that they are responsible for mass murder and mayhem, when only 4.3% of gun crimes, the vast majority of which relate only to possession, involve rifles — of which so-called assault rifles comprise only a small fraction. The fact is that the apparatus of oppression does not want even semi-automatic weapons with standardized calibers and parts and firepower in the hands of people who might decide to use them in an organized manner.

In societies where the government does not fear its people, Nicaragua and Switzerland, for example, real assault rifles are passed out without the dire consequences predicted and blamed on the instruments. One of the first things the Soviet Army did during the recent anti-government protests in Tbilisi, Soviet Republic of Georgia, was to pick up 66,000 plus registered firearms, according to National Public Radio. The people armed are the only guarantors that governments will reflect their will and those who would usurp the people's power know it. So they seek unilateral disarmament.

The people who own the government and the executors who operate it realize that they will need to tighten their control in order to maintain their positions. The disparities in wealth are becoming increasingly great, and U.S. hegemony and thus the ability to exploit the rest of the world and buy



Can't Jail the Spirit

This book is a collection of biographies and autobiographies of 70 political prisoners in the U.S. This powerful and inspiring book is sure to make a major contribution towards building a movement in support of political prisoners in North America and their various causes. It includes native, Puerto Rican, Black and white American prisoners who have been jailed either for actions against the American system, or else were jailed on fraudulent grounds to still their effective organizing.

A reading of this book will make one more familiar with causes of which one has little knowledge, will serve as a mini history lesson of the last two decades. The book offers an insight into the diversity of the various militant strands that are being woven together to challenge a system that is increasingly repressive.

The book is available for 10\$ U.S. plus \$2 postage from the Committee to End the Marion Lockdown, 343 S. Dearborn, Suite 1607, Chicago, IL. ∞

off its own people is decreasing. Poverty, especially in a society indoctrinated to accumulation and consumerism as the only validation and the exploitation and oppression from which it grows, breeds unrest. The tiny power elite realizes that it cannot stand against unity in a democratic but oppressed polity. Hence, it seeks to divide the society against itself: proletarian against worker; worker against petit bourgeois; and particularly, race against race. This accounts for the targeting of underclass communities, especially Black and Hispanic, as the source of crime that must be "fought", and the creation of polarization thereby. The reality that the ruling class is the real source of the problem for all whom it exploits is distorted and disguised. This division and its fears are being used as the basis for building the massive military, police, and prison apparatus of repression to replace with force what the ruling class cannot and will not provide via a legitimate social system. ∞

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*If you don't like the news,
go out and make some of
your own.*

Indians Take Political Initiative

by Bulldozer

The month of April saw the struggles of native people in Canada reach new levels of intensity and tactics. From one end of the country to the other, there were hunger strikes, blockades, vigils, sit-ins, marches and court challenges on a variety of issues ranging from government funding cutbacks, land claims, new mega projects threatening Indian land, efforts to bring the case of American Indian leader Leonard Peltier back into the Canadian courts and low level NATO bomber flights over Laborador.

Eight Indian students went on a hunger strike on March/22, to protest the cutbacks by the federal government for funding post-secondary school education which had provided tuition and other expenses as well as a living allowance for any treaty Indian who went to university or college. As is so often the case, it was the increasing success of the program that caused the state to want to cap the funding both for individuals and the over all program. More and more native students chose to make use of the program because it offered a way out of the welfare existence that is the lot of most Canadian Indians. But the state is never happy to educate those who might use their knowledge and skills to better themselves and fight for the rights of their people.

More students joined in as the hungerstrike developed. Though the tactic were not always appreciated by the leaders of the national native organization, the Assembly of First Nations (AFN), the students did receive wide support. As the strike approached its twentieth day, there were demonstrations and sit-ins by hundreds of native people across the country. There were dozens of arrests for trespassing from these actions. Eventually the AFN and various elders convinced all but two of the strikers to start eating in their twenty-sixth day of the fast. It was clear that Leo Cadieux, the government minister in charge of



Indian affairs, would not budge from his refusal to meet with the students as long as the strike went on. By the end of April, only one striker continued, entering into his 24th day. In spite of government efforts to bury the issue by giving it to a Parliamentary committee to study, the students and their supporters have vowed to continue their protests.

Meanwhile, In Laborador, on April 18th, four Innu were found not guilty of public mischief for sitting in at a Canadian Forces Base air strip to protest low-level bomber test runs over Nitassinan, their traditional territory. Provincial Court judge James Iglooliorte, himself a native, said that he was "satisfied that the four believe their ancestors predate any Canadian claim to this land.

Through their knowledge of ancestry and kinship, they have shown that none of their people ever gave away rights to the land to Canada."

The Innu have been protesting the low level military flights which are designed to train Canadian and other NATO pilots how to fly low enough to evade Russian radar. The Innu say these flights, often just above tree level, terrify both them and the caribou, their traditional food and source of so much of their culture. The caribou herd has had its usual migratory patterns disrupted by the incredibly loud noise of the jets. The Innu also say that the screaming planes, shatter the tranquility of the bush, and have had a severe effect on both the young and the elders. They have waged a long campaign of sit-ins and camp-ins at the base to protest not only the present flights but also attempts by Canada to win approval to use the site for a vastly expanded NATO training program which would increase the number of yearly flights from 7,000 to 40,000. The new proposals would also see part of Nitassinan converted into a bombing range. Canada is desperately seeking to win NATO approval for Nitassinan as the site for the new practice range over one in Turkey. An international campaign is also being waged in some of the European NATO countries to get their governments to turn down Canada's suggestion.

The removal of the Innu from the base, the day after the court decision, as they were trying to deliver a letter to the base saying that Canada and its NATO allies were trespassing on Innu land, show that the court decision was far from a clear victory. It will slowly wind its way through the higher courts. Other recent court decisions regarding native land claims have been very reactionary, one in Ontario basically throws out and disregards any sense of aboriginal rights to the land.

But this has not stopped nation after nation from going to the courts, using road blocks and other tactics to either claim or save their land. In a real

sense, it is a last stand for many of these people. The resource industry, upon which so much of the Canadian economy is dependent, ravages the land in search of profit, threatening to destroy and contaminate what little native land is left that can support a hunting, gathering and trapping society. The James Bay Cree, who made a multi-million dollar settlement with the province of Quebec in exchange for a massive hydro electric project, have found that white society still does not keep its treaties. Moreover, much of the land that was to be theirs, is now a waste land of mud flats, with the wildlife destroyed or disrupted, the fish, upon which much of the diet is based, is contaminated with mercury. They will fight harder against new proposals by Quebec to build even bigger and more destructive dams in order to reap a 20 billion dollar sale of power to the U.S.

The native peoples of Canada, the status and non-status Indians, the Inuit and the Metis, represent and are involved in many of the issues facing the Canadian people. The Innu are leading the struggle against NATO and militarization; the environmental movement sees its interests represented in the native land claims even if sometimes there are conflicts between the two in specific instances; the unions and churches and the national federation of students have come out in support of native education since it is the first round in the renewed fight against the cutbacks being implemented by the re-elected Conservatives; government inquiries in two provinces looking at native people and the justice system and the police have exposed the rampant racism to which they are subjected just as the Blacks and Asians are increasingly finding the racism against them intolerable.

The native peoples are on the front line of the struggles in Canada against the right-wing agenda for Canada. By supporting the struggles of native people, the non-native Canadians can only strengthen our own movements. ∞

Peltier Supporters Bring Case Back to Canada

On Apr/16-19/89, the Leonard Peltier Canadian Defense Committee held a vigil on Parliament Hill in Ottawa. The vigil was timed to coincide with the filing of notice of intent before the Supreme Court to appeal Peltier's extradition from Canada in 1976. Though 13 years later, the issues involved in the extradition remain relevant to the Canadian state, the Canadian judicial system, to both native and non-native people in Canada.

Peltier fled to Canada in 1975 after the killing of two FBI agents on the Pine Ridge reserve in South Dakota. He was captured in early '76 while staying with some Cree in Alberta. He was taken to Oakalla prison in Vancouver and eventually extradited after the FBI used admittedly fraudulent affidavits to convince the Canadian court that there was sufficient evidence to try him for murdering the FBI agents. An application to have him declared a political refugee was denied and he was sent back to the U.S. where he was sentenced to two life terms.

The FBI efforts to subvert justice and imprison Peltier were revealed over the years in documents released under the Freedom of Information Act. The use of the fraudulent affidavits by the FBI from Myrtle Poor Bear who claimed to have been Peltier's "girlfriend", in the Canadian court, clearly violates the extradition treaty between the two countries. Neither the affidavits, nor Poor Bear herself, were used by the prosecution at the trial. Yet the Canadian government and its politicians and prosecutors went along with this travesty of justice even though the case against Peltier was unravelling before he was actually sent back. To partially make amends for this complicity, Warren Almand, a government minister in the Liberal government at the time, is sponsoring a private members bill in the House of Commons, also seeking Peltier's return.

The Peltier case is generating increasing support from both native and non-native people in Canada. The illegal extradition of an Indian man from Canada to the U.S., especially one who had been adopted by the Kwakiutl people, reveals not only the lack of respect for native traditions, but also shows the complicity of the Canadian government to U.S. interests. If the Supreme Court decides to hear the case, then issues around Canadian complicity and American fraud will come out. If the Court refuses, it will only confirm what many of us have known all along; that Canada is only the top Banana republic in the empire. The vigil was also supported by demonstrations at the Canadian embassy in Washington, the Canadian consulates in several other American cities as well as in London England, Belfast, and other international centres. This international pressure is important since even the Conservative government values and uses the image of Canada as being some benign liberal state.

The next court date is 12/June. Once again the Defense Committee along with their supporters will be in Ottawa for the hearing. The perspective of the Committee is that, as important as the case is, the issues will always be broader than a legal argument as to the technicalities surrounding the extradition. It has always been argued that Peltier symbolizes the broader struggles of the Indian people of North America. This is no less true in Canada than the U.S. Peltier's supporters have kept the case alive for 13 years against all obstacles. In spite of what seems like long odds, one should never assume that the end has been reached. If justice cannot be achieved in Canada, the U.N. will be the next stop on a long journey. ∞

For more information or to offer much needed funds, please contact: Leonard Peltier Canadian Defense Cmtte., 43 Chandler Dr., Scarborough, Ont Canada M1G 1Z1

Emergency Appeal

from Partisan Defense Committee

America's only political prisoner on death row, Mumia Abu Jamal, has been denied his appeal to have his death sentence overturned by the Pennsylvania Supreme Court.

Mumia's appeal had also demanded a new trial. The March 6 high court decision ignored a multitude of fair trial violations and refused to consider the political motivations which were central in prosecuting Mumia and getting him sentenced to death.

"As a former Black Panther Party spokesman and an outspoken MOVE supporter, Jamal has been in the cross hairs of Philadelphia's racist killer cops for over 20 years", said Partisan Defense Cmtte. staff counsel Rachel Wolkenstein in a press release. At the time of his arrest, Jamal was President of the Association of Black Journalists in Philadelphia. He earned the cops' undying hatred especially for his sympathetic interviews with imprisoned MOVE members after the 1978 cop siege.

Mumia was framed up in the killing of a Philadelphia policeman in 1981. At the 1982 sentencing hearing, the prosecution argued for the death sentence by claiming that Jamal's having been a member of the Black Panther Party showed he was a committed cop-killer. The jury was assured that the death penalty would never be carried out, that Jamal would have "appeal after appeal". For years the Pennsylvania Supreme Court has held in other cases that this obviously false argument mandated automatic reversal of the death sentence upon review. But in its Mar/6/89 decision, the court ignored its own precedent in its push to silence Mumia by execution.

Mumia was targeted because of what he wrote and said, because of who he is: a radical Black man who became known as "the voice of the voice-



less". At his trial, Jamal was denied counsel of his own choice. To get a hanging jury of 11 whites, the court permitted the seating of a white juror who admitted he could not be impartial, while excluding 12 prospective black jurors simply on the prosecution's request.

Jamal's appeal was supported by amici curiae (friends of the court) briefs from the ACLU and the National Conference of Black Lawyers. Ron Delums, now chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus, appealed to Pennsylvania's Gov. Casey "to remove the cloud of death from Mr. Abu-Jamal" in a letter last Nov. Thousands of people around the nation have petitioned the governor to demand "Mumia Abu-Jamal must not die" as part of a campaign initiated by the PDC.

Telegrams and letters should be sent now to Gov. Casey, Main Capitol Building, Rm 225, Harrisburg, PA 17120. For petitions and more information, contact the Partisan Defense Cmtte, POB 99, Canal St. Station, New York, NY 10013. ∞

German H

On Feb/1/89, political prisoners from: the Red Army Faction (RAF), an anti-imperialist guerrilla organization, the June 2nd movement, a former anti-authoritarian guerrilla group and other prisoners from the anti-imperialist resistance and militant social movements in West Germany (FRG) and West Berlin, began an unlimited hungerstrike for the association of political prisoners and against isolation torture and sensory deprivation.

The RAF is the first marxist/communist group to wage organized armed struggle in the FRG since 1923. Dedicated to revolutionary change and fighting the exploitation and suppression machine of imperialism from inside, the RAF has been fighting for 19 years. Their strategy, "fighting from the inside", means waging the struggle from the metropolises, the homelands of imperialism, for example, the U.S., the FRG, Great Britain and France. The actions of the RAF have included: attacking U.S. military bases as well as U.S. and FRG police headquarters, and assassinations of imperialist corporate businessmen. On May 5, 1972, they attacked the headquarters of the U.S. army in Heidelberg, West Germany, where the central computer which coordinated the U.S. engagements/actions in North Vietnam was installed. Another example was the assassination of the ex-Nazi, Mercedes-Benz manager, Schleyer in 1977 and the Siemens manager Beckurt in 1986.

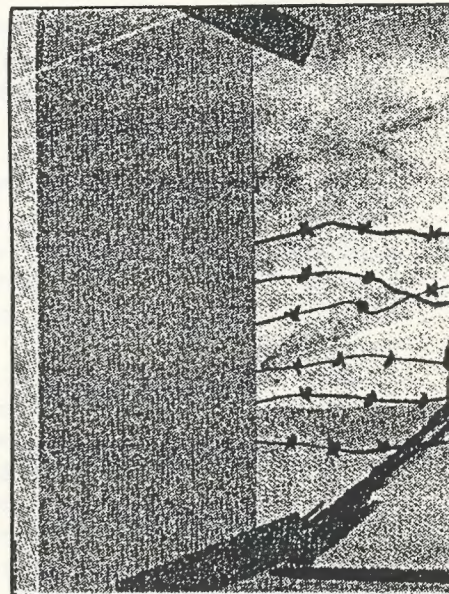
The June 2nd movement existed in the 1970's and is well known for the "Lorenz kidnapping". On February 27th, 1975 they kidnapped the West Berlin Christian Democratic Union (CDU) chairperson Peter Lorenz and exchanged him for five political prisoners, Rolf Pohle, Verena Becker, Rolf Heibler, Gabi Srocheriedmann and Ingrid Sepmann. The CDU is a conservative party which rules Germany in coalition with the FDP (liberals).

The demands of the hungerstrike was contained in a statement released by Helmet Pohl on behalf of political prisoners in the FRG and West Berlin.

**The association of all prisoners from the guerrilla and resistance movements in one or two large groups, in which new prisoners could be integrated, with access to common yard exercise with all prisoners.*

** Release of all prisoners for whom a return to health after sickness, injury or torture is difficult under prison conditions.*

** Release of Gunter Sonnenberg, Claudia Wannersedorfen, Bernd*



Rossner, Angelika Goode.

** Free choice of medical care
political police,*

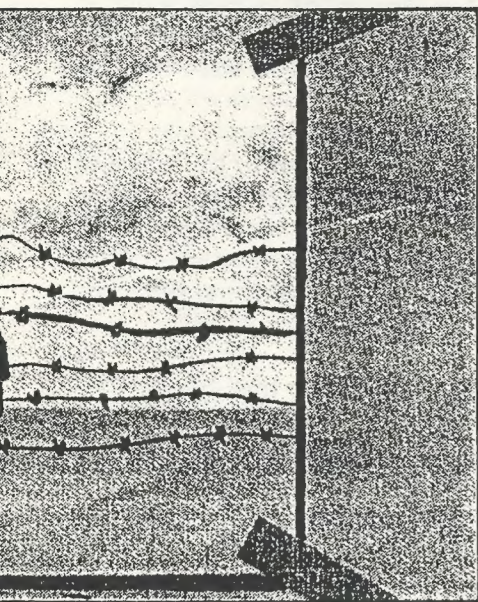
** Open political information
all groups in society.*

Facing one of the most serious in Europe, the FRG has developed weapon of choice. It is a bloodless Sensory deprivation torture is exercise (Wings) of Stammheim/Stuttgart in an entire wing that has been permitted with any other prisoners.

The windowless cells are so guards control; one hour of solitary rigorously censored and limited wearing of prison uniforms; non-directly by state security police endured 11 years of this form of

In their statement, the prisoners will be a long and drawn-out struggle

Hungerstrike



for all prisoners without control by the

and communication for prisoners with

and sustained guerrilla movements
isolation/sensory deprivation as the
clean and effective form of torture.
amplified by the "Toten Trakte" (Dead
where one prisoner is confined alone
otherwise vacated. No contact is
what so ever.

d proofed; the lights are under the
ry yard exercise daily; the mail is
restricted number of books; the
contact visits and they are monitored
RAF prisoner Bernd Rossner has
tal isolation.

s announced, that this hungerstrike
le and they explained why and how

this strike would be different than the previous strikes.

"We are now taking on a new form of collective struggle. In the last strike, they made a new law, the 'coma law', which would eliminate hungerstrikes as a means of struggle. The law means that the will and decision making capacity to keep on struggling would be taken from anyone in a coma in a long, drawn-out medical-technique manipulation in the intensive care unit. That means, furthermore, for the struggle as a whole, that they want to bring the critical development and decision [as to whether to continue the strike] into a narrow timeframe, practically to the point where many of us, after two or three months, would be simultaneously close to the edge. Then maybe several would die. But then, in a short, frontal confrontation — and the state is prepared to 'endure' it — like they said last time. And then, as they see it, the strike would be over.

"And that would also mean that the means of struggle would be turned against us politically. Because, in this simultaneous culmination for us all, the question of the sense and goal would be thrown back at us. When many are dead, how will the others then want to be together.

"We will turn that against then and carry on a long drawn-out struggle. We are going to begin together. Then after two weeks, we are going to go over into a chain. All except two will temporarily interrupt the strike; then after two more weeks, the next two will join in again, and then the new two after two more weeks and further on."

This is the pattern that the hungerstrikers followed, though virtually all of the original strikers rejoined on April/1. On Apr/14 Karl-Heinz Bellwo and Christa Rollnik, who had remained on the strike since Feb/1, interrupted their strike after 75 days just before losing consciousness.

In solidarity with the original Hungerstrikers, both political and social prisoners throughout the FRG prison system began their own hungerstrikes to back the demands of RAF/Resistance prisoners and to make their own demands. Some of these strikes were temporary while others have continued. As of April/19, seventy prisoners have participated in this political struggle.

The following is a selection of solidarity actions which documents the increase of the revolutionary resistance against the imperialist system. They show that the Hungerstrike of the RAF, the anti-imperialist resistance and the social prisoners are not isolated, but on the contrary, is getting increasing support, comprehension and solidarity from many of the social movements in the FRG.

On Feb/11/89, 11,000 people, with a large feminist and lesbian contingent, demonstrated for the release of Ingrid Strobl, a feminist, anti-genetic manipulation activist, jailed in Dec 1987 on flimsy evidence linking her to a Rotte Zora (RZ) bombing. So far no one from the RZ has ever been caught. The demonstration was also against Paragraph 129 and 129A in Essen. These laws criminalize and dam up the revolutionary and radical movements and try to prevent any kind of solidarity with militant resistance groups (e.g. RAF, RZ, Automone Zelle Alois Sonnenleitner, Revolutionare Handwerker Amazonen, Anti-rassistische Zellen, Revolutionare Viven, etc). Although the demonstration has been planned for months in advance, the demonstrators declared themselves in solidarity with the demands of the hungerstrikers on banners, in slogans and speeches. The marchers also expressed support for a Palestinian comrade and a member of the Uruguayan Tupamaros. The media totally ignored this solidarity with the political prisoners.

Supporters also occupied the main medical building in Hamburg which included the headquarters of the national medical doctors association. After the occupation, the medical association astonishingly declared itself against the "coma-solution" as well as the role which the police authorities have forced on doctors during previous hungerstrikes. Under the "coma-solution", a prisoner entering into unconsciousness from not eating, would be repeatedly brought to and from consciousness by medical manipulation, thereby implementing a new form of torture.

Several churches were occupied around the country as well as the city hall in West Berlin, in order to bring attention to the strike. The Families of Political Prisoners occupied the Department of Justice Building in Dusseldorf.

In the early morning of April/12, 7 masked people stormed into the biggest stock exchange in the FRG, in Frankfurt, throwing molotovs that heavily damaged the computer terminals of the in house system. Unfortunately, three of the seven were busted by the pigs.

The writing expert in the trial against Eva-Haule Frimpong (RAF), Mr. Ockelmann, was doubtlessly surprised when he went out one morning and found his super-expensive car burnt out. Many banks have also been the targets of molotov attacks.

There has been more than fifty demos, including one of 3,500 people in West Berlin. In Hamburg, 8,000 people participated in a demonstration called by 50 different organizations. ∞

U.S. Sympathy Strike

from the Sedition Committee

While West German and South African political prisoners continue fasting for their demands, in the U.S., over 600 political and social prisoners joined in a one-day fast on March 15 to show their solidarity with their sisters and brothers in the prisons of West Germany and South Africa. Hundreds fasted at the federal prison at Lewisburg, PA, hundreds at Leavenworth, KS. Smaller groups participated in Trenton, NJ; Mariana, FL; Pleasanton, CA; Marion, IL; Hartford, CT; Washington, DC and various prisons in Texas. The solidarity fast was led by political prisoners in prisons throughout the U.S. These fasts will continue on the 1st and 15th of every month by, at least, 100 prisoners in this country until demands are met. ∞

National Notes

REWARDS OF RESISTANCE: During the week of 12/Mar/89, *USA Today* reported that 41 District of Columbia prisoners who had been sent as boarders to the Spokane, WA, country jail against their wills would be sent elsewhere. Apparently, Spokane County felt that it could no longer reap a profit on the privation and misery inflicted on these prisoners solely for money. The reason for the announced transfer was that the prisoners refused to acquiesce to this abuse and kept up a militant resistance, constantly plugging up toilets, demonstrating, filing litigation, destroying property and assaulting guards. Had the prisoners been pacifistic, the County would have been content to "discuss" their concerns while raking in the fruits of their exploitation.

Ju Kikumura: Apparently due solely to the political character of his prosecution and alleged terrorist connections, Ju Kikumura, was recently transferred to USP Marion. He was given a 30 year sentence in November for supposed possession of three bombs. The charges were sensationalized on unsubstantiated claims that he was a Libyan trained member of the Japanese Red Army. He is appealing the conviction and sentence on the basis of illegal search, official lies and the disproportionality of the sentence. Abortion clinic bombers routinely get no more than 7 years. USP Lewisburg officials admitted taping legal defense conferences at Lewisburg but said it was OK because they didn't listen to them.

FAWAZ YOUNIS: On 14/Mar/89, Fawaz Younis was convicted in federal district court in Washington, DC, of six charges related to the hijacking of an Egyptian 737 that carried 70 Americans to Malta on 23/Nov/85. He was kidnapped off a yacht in the Mediterranean in Sep/87 after being lured there by FBI agents. His subsequent interrogation was such that his wrists were broken. The conspiracy of blindness to the case has likely resulted in

other tortures going unreported. So has the manner of his being brought to court: kidnapping to show that kidnapping is a no-no is about as hypocritical as the death penalty to show that murder is wrong.

JUAN SEGARRA PALMER: On 11/Apr/89, Juan Segarra Palmer was convicted in U.S. district court in Hartford, CT, of 11 counts of helping to plan a \$7.1 million expropriation from Wells Fargo in 1983. He is a member of Los Macheteros, a Puerto Rican Independista organization, and was arrested in apparent frustration by the FBI after the money and prime suspect, Victor Gerena, disappeared. Three others were also convicted of lesser charges, and one of the defendants was acquitted. Nine others in the case still await trial.

THE SERVICE ECONOMY: According to the U.S. Census Bureau, corrections workers, both guards and other jail workers, were the fastest growing category in public employment. The 1987 corrections employment of 425,000 was up from 388,000 a year earlier for a increase of 9.5%. As recently as 1980, only 263,000 were listed in the category. State and local police hiring was also up 2.0 % to 718,000 while governments also employed 273,000 judicial and legal workers. We can expect to see these categories continue to experience rapid increases as we shift to the "service economy." ∞

Writings of the Ohio 7

The Toronto Anarchist Black Cross has issued a tabloid containing writings of the Ohio 7. It also contains an introduction as to why anarchists should support political prisoners regardless of whether or not they might be communists or marxists. For copies please write A.B.C., POB 6326, Stn A, Toronto, Ont. Canada M5W 1P7. Donations gratefully accepted.

AIDS in Prison

by David Gilbert

Prisons, although more hidden from public view, are yet another arena where the AIDS epidemic is being allowed to spread because the authorities don't give a fig about human life when it comes to gays, third world people and the poor.

In 1987, 150 New York state prisoners died of AIDS — two out of every three deaths in a system that holds 40,000 people. The death toll will continue to rise for years to come. Eighty-eight per cent of N.Y. prisoners with AIDS are Latino or Black. AIDS itself is bad enough, and it is heart-breaking to have to face death in prison. But for the prisoner with AIDS, it is triple jeopardy because he or she might be completely isolated even from other prisoners.

The prisoner with AIDS is also likely to have a much shorter survival time. A recent N.Y. Commission of Correction report shows that, for example, IV drug users with AIDS live for an average of 318 days after diagnosis in New York City but only 159 days in the state prisons. No one has put out a definitive analysis of this stark discrepancy; it is probably a combination of late diagnosis, poor medical treatment, and the depressing emotional atmosphere in prisons. It is shocking that the grim statistic of 1/2 the survival time has not produced a public uproar. The deafening silence expresses how little value is placed on prisoners' lives by officials, the media and sectors of the public.

Continued transmission of AIDS within prisons and to the communities to which most prisoners eventually return is both a dire and unattended problem. The most realistic estimate of the rate among N.Y.S. prisoners is 25%. (This figure is arrived at by correlating the % of N.Y.C. IV drug users who are seropositive with the % of prisoners with IV drug histories.) Figures for most other states would be considerably lower. Tests of fed-

eral prisoners indicate that close to 3% are seropositive, and even this figure poses serious epidemiological dangers.

While sex and drugs are officially proscribed in prison, they are far from uncommon. Yet, hard-to-come-by needles are likely to be widely shared, with little access to proper sterilization; condoms are a rarity. Condoms, needles and disinfectants are all contraband in here. There is no question but that there is a **grave problem of the continued spread of the epidemic in prison**. Yet the authorities stick by their official position of no "apparent" or "documented" spread. They claim that sharing needles and prison sex are rare; we prisoners know better.

Quiet as it's kept, there is a way to prevent AIDS: education. The most effective approach is peer education. The peer aspect is doubly important in prison where inmates tend to distrust the authorities and are unlikely to discuss proscribed activities with staff. Some people take the cynical view that "dope-fiends" won't change. My experience is that working with people on the basis of respect and trust, in a consistent and day-to-day fashion, can bring significant changes away from high-risk practices. I've seen even more profound, and moving, changes in attitudes toward PWA's (People With AIDS); once fears about casual contact are put to rest, people's compassion can bloom.

In June of 1987, 3 of us at Auburn Correctional Facility launched a Prisoners' Education Project on AIDS (PEPA). We were spurred into action by the AIDS death of our beloved fellow prisoner, and distinguished Black Liberation Army warrior, Kuwasi Balagoon. We developed our program by applying the example of the successful peer education in the San Francisco gay community to the very different prison context. Of course, the De-



partment of Correctional Services rejected our application to form an inmate organization. They rule by maintaining passivity and divisions among prisoners, so the type of initiative and unity intrinsic to a peer counselling program is anathema to the authorities.

We were prepared for their opposition and had developed a good deal of outside support for our program — enough support to force through a compromise of a partial project. What we weren't prepared for was the role of two white, male AIDS professionals who became the key to our outside training and sponsorship. They just didn't see prisoners — primarily third world and poor — as much of a priority, even though we had the highest concentration of seropositive people

in their region. Their inordinate delays on promised work, gave the prison authorities the space for a war of attrition against our project. These professionals also basically conformed with the administration's position that the program should be first worked out by professionals and administration, with the prisoners being the recipients of the final product — some way to develop a "peer" project! Admidst the months of delays and constant hassles, I (the recognized "Inmate Coordinator" of the project) was suddenly shipped out to the most isolated Max A prison in the state. While several prisoners at Auburn, along with some dedicated outside AIDS volunteers, continue to make a valiant effort, the war of attrition has left a mere shell of the original project.

There is a bitter irony here — bitter with the taste of numerous deaths over time that could have been prevented. Probably the greatest initial obstacle to prisoner involvement was homophobia. Even though most prisoners with AIDS were exposed via needles, AIDS was defined as a gay "disease" and homophobia blocked prisoners from identifying with PWA's and from facing the issue forthrightly. On the other hand, the undoubted basis for how our efforts were undercut by AIDS professionals was their race and class bias. Meanwhile, the crucially needed prisoner-peer projects for N.Y. and nationwide continue to be stymied, at a great cost to human lives.

My conclusion from this experience: 1. Thorough, consistent and ongoing peer education can make a big difference in the attitudes and practices of prisoners; 2. the prison authorities will not accede to such programs without strong public pressure to do so; 3. there must be a powerful movement about AIDS to push the professionals (or to supercede them) to be true to their professed ideals and put the fight against AIDS above careerism. To be effective against AIDS, the movement must consciously oppose race, class, gender and sexual orientation biases. ∞

The Marionette

March-April 1989

Number 42

One More Long Time

Four years after its founding and two years after Prison News Service joined it, *The Marionette* clings tenaciously to life. It hasn't succeeded in uncovering the depths of depravity and deceit upon which the political repression of experimental laboratory Marion is built such that is readers would rise against them. It has not succeeded in maintaining or increasing its frequency, making its small light dimmer still. It has not succeeded in becoming a collective endeavor secure from the adversities the vicissitudes of life with big brother may inflict on its individuals. In that, however, it has succeeded in exposing further the government lie that Marion is temporary and a prisoner can expect to be transferred after whatever is continually increasing average stay. How else would it still be alive? *The Marionette* has also succeeded in at least attempting to draw back the shroud in which the government wraps its violations of UN standards designed to safeguard human rights of prisoners. Despite what it has not succeeded in, *The Marionette* has endured. Ordinarily, four years of an information outlet would not be worthy of much, if any note. Four years is just about the time a service provider requires to become self-sustaining, and *The Marionette* hasn't even done that. But the circumstances of exploitation and oppression under which *The Marionette* operates makes such a period not only notable, but remarkable. In that it share much with other exploited and oppressed communities. It may not accomplish much, but it does, and has, and will persevere. And sometimes endurance is enough; verily, sometimes it is the most possible. Sometimes a person has to hunker down, draw a strained psychological fabric close for what shield it may provide, and focus on protecting a spark from the cold wet hand of



repression. When people are pressed thusly, so too, are their projects, like newsletters.

With the next issue, *The Marionette* will go through another metamorphoses in its quest to endure, to continue supplying what governments want hidden. Toward putting the counter-productive Marion lockdown more firmly into its proper context as just one more element of the American system of repression via imprisonment, *The Marionette* and its resources will become a subordinate, yet important, part of the larger Prison News Service. PNS aspires to be a voice of people who also struggle to endure in the many other islands of the American Gulag Archipelago. The change will facilitate both the dissemination of the information and the creation of a more unified perception of and response to the apparatus of repression. There is alot more to the forest than the biggest tree. ∞

Poisons Piped to Prison

The fact that the U.S. Bureau of Prisons (BOP) supplies water contaminated with hazardous wastes like PCBs to the prisoners confined to dungeon Marion is not forgotten. It is a sufficiently substantial and wanton and continuing atrocity to elicit continuing condemnation. The latest critical comment was an excellent article entitled, "*Toxins on Tap*" in the May, 1989 *Progressive* by the magazine's Associate Editor Linda Rocawich. She succinctly explained the circumstances, details and ramifications of Marion's water in an eminently readable manner. The result is a clear picture of the situation.

USP Marion gets its water from Crab Orchard Lake, into which leak PCBs from a toxic dumpsite so hazardous that it made the EPA Superfund clean-up list. Local outcry over the pollution was so intense that Marion town officials were forced to buy more expensive water from elsewhere. Guards are never seen drinking the water and seem to rely mostly on cans of pop. Marion prisoners have a high incidence of rashes, cancers and others problems consistent with the symptoms of PCB exposure. A class action lawsuit about the water since 1984, but the BOP has it effectively short-stopped. It refuses to allow any outside testing of prisoners. It also refuses to allow the water to be tested as it comes into the prison, even though the lawyer handling the case, Steven Feinberg of Trial Lawyers for Public Justice, says he would drop the suit if the water proved uncontaminated as the BOP claims. Robert Wyler, the prisoner who initiated the litigation has since died of cancer. The current lead plaintiff, Michael Sizemore, has persevered in pursuing the action despite considerable retaliation for his efforts.

Warden Henman was questioned about the *Progressive* article on 20/Apr and he insisted that the water is safe and that he and his family drink it. (yeeeah, that's the ticket. He also insisted that it is regularly tested but got all squirmy when pressed for details like by whom and how and referred the questioner to the BOP's lawyers. He rejected outside testing of prisoners by people the

BOP didn't "know" who might "find all kinds of things wrong." The problem could be solved for about what it costs to keep three prisoners as Marion for a year, but that appears unlikely. The intransigence is likely deliberate, given Marion's experimental nature. ∞

Marionnotes

INS DEAL: In March, there were problems according to Marion prisoners even in the one weekly yard period allowed. Complaints elicited denials of any problems but also the information that the INS had made a \$1 million dollar deal to keep Cuban detainees segregated on the formerly unused third floor of the hospital. The deal includes giving the detainees at least the formality of outside recreation. It also includes yet another reminder to the Cubans of the value of former Attorney General Edwin Meese's promises made after the seizures of the Atlanta and Oakdale prisons.

CAPTAIN KICKED: Early in April, Marion Guard Captain Hopkins vacated the premises. After less than a year as head hog, he was replaced by former Lieutenant Greenfield. Rumor has it that this was not a vacation but an eviction. He was reputedly "fucking up". One of the elements thereof was having incurred the wrath of the guards' union, a surprise given the union's status as a toothless old lap dog of the administration. The warden denies the rumor, probably because he is aware that most everyone wants to know how to get kicked out of Marion.

RABBIS RALLY: On 24/Apr/89, ten rabbis, mostly from New York demonstrated at Marion for the release of Israeli spy Johnathan Pollard and his wife. They expressed, essentially, that everything was alright with the system except that it had given Pollard too much time. Pollard, in reality, is just a pawn in a U.S. gambit to distance itself from its responsibility for the murderous Israeli domination of the Palestinians by making the U.S.-

continued on page 3

Outrage Demonstrated

On 29/Apr/89, a demonstration against the counter-productive abuses of the perpetually locked down federal prison known as USP ranged across parts of Southern Illinois. The events started with a rally on the Southern Illinois University campus in Carbondale, IL, with a rally on the Southern Illinois campus in Carbondale, IL, that led to a march through town to the Federal Building. They continued with a march through the town of Marion to the federal post office. The demonstration culminated in a convergence at the entrance to the Marion Federal Prison grounds. There, participants displayed their opposition to the needless oppression of locked down Marion with their presence, voices and signs.

The demonstration, organized by the Chicago based Committee to End the Marion Lockdown (CEML) called for an end to the lockdown. In doing so, the demonstrators also condemned the needless restriction and repression visited on the prisoners at Marion; the provision of toxic waste contaminated water to prisoners; the disproportionate use of Marion against political prisoners and litigators; the violations of the Bureau of Prisons (BOP) own criteria for consignment to Marion; and the deprivation of prisoners' dignity and community corrections. Pointed out, too, were the facts that conditions at Marion violate the UN

Minimum Standard Rules for the treatment of prisoners, are condemned by Amnesty International and are exactly the wrong way to address the problems that, the BOP alleges, justify Marion. No one can be improved and freedom cannot be served by privation, mistreatment and isolation. Steve Whitman, one of the demonstration's organizers summed it up with the comment: "As long as a prison like Marion exists, none of us are really free."

Marion Executive Assistant Randy Davis spoke for the prison. He repeated the same, old, worn out, discredited rationalizations for dungeon Marion. He said that all prisoners here had been disrupted and violent in other prisons. — a lie. He denied that prisoners are chained to their bunks — a lie. He denied that Marion is abusive — a lie. And he told other lies. He said that the existence of locked down Marion allows other prisons to be operated in a more "traditional" manner. Traditional is a greasy word that has now been substituted for the formerly used descriptive "more open", apparently in recognition of the fact that Marion has only succeeded in drawing other prisons toward its repressive extreme. Davis brushed off criticisms with the statement that Marion is not here to rehabilitate, only to control, without explaining the contradiction. Ultimately, there can be no security and control without rehabilitation by whatever one wants to call it.

Marionnotes *continued from page 2*

Israeli connection appear less than it is. Condemnation of that circumstance — and of Marion — would have better demonstrated the moral authority the rabbis claim.

SUN SUIT CLOUDED: Last June, Marion officials arbitrarily banned bringing sunscreen to the single, two-hour yard period on the shadeless yard. The excuse was that the small plastic bottles could be used as weapons or to smuggle contraband. Prisoners filed for a preliminary injunction against the ban as needlessly exposing them to hazardous levels of solar radiation. The district judge demonstrated the myth of due process for prisoners. ∞

Two or three hundred people is not huge as demonstrations go. Nevertheless, it was a major accomplishment in a hostile climate of unreasoned crime and prisoner bashing and considering the remoteness of Marion and the meager resources of those who recognizes its depravity. It helped draw attention to the prison struggle and place it more firmly within the larger movement for the most equitable social reality. It demonstrated unity and solidarity with prisoners in their victimization, a fact that isolated Marion prisoners greatly appreciate. And it undoubtedly helped to ameliorate that oppression by making it clear that big brother is being watched. ∞